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Security Council

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Letter dated 23 February 2007 from the Permanent Representative of Ghana to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit herewith a copy of the communiqué adopted by the 71st meeting of the Peace and Security Council of the African Union, held in Addis Ababa on 16 February 2007 (see annex).

I should be grateful if the text of the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Nana **Effah-Apenteng**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of Ghana to the United Nations
Representative of the current Chairman of the African Union

07-25129 (E) 280207 280207

Annex to the letter dated 23 February 2007 from the Permanent Representative of Ghana to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

[Original: English and French]

Communiqué of the 71st meeting of the Peace and Security Council

The Peace and Security Council of the African Union, at its 71st meeting held on 16 February 2007, considered the situation in the Republic of Guinea. The Council received briefings from the Commission and the Permanent Representative of the Republic of Guinea to the African Union.

At the end of its deliberations, the Council decided as follows:

The Council,

1. *Expresses its grave concern* over the situation prevailing in the Republic of Guinea and its implications for peace, security and stability in the subregion;

2. *Regrets* the loss of human lives during the January 2007 general strike, and in February 2007. The Council *strongly condemns* the disproportionate use of force and the repression of the civilian population and, in this regard, *requests* the opening of an independent inquiry, with the participation of the African Commission on Human and People's Rights, in order the identify and bring to justice the perpetrators of the atrocities and other acts of violence committed during these events;

3. *Underscores* the fact that the crisis facing Guinea is deep seated, and that it can only be resolved within the framework of open dialogue and consultations among the concerned parties. In this regard, the Council *requests* the Guinean authorities to take immediate and appropriate measures in order to bring to an end all acts of violence being committed by the security forces and facilitate a genuine dialogue among all the stakeholders;

4. *Urges* the President of the Republic and the Government of Guinea to scrupulously respect the spirit and letter of the *Procès Verbal de Négociation* signed on 27 January 2007, including the appointment of a new consensual Prime Minister;

5. *Expresses its support* to the initiatives taken by ECOWAS and its current Chairperson with a view to assisting in the resolution of the crisis. The Council *commends* the efforts of the current Chairperson of the African Union, as well as the initiatives already taken by the Chairperson of the Commission and *requests* the latter to continue working closely with ECOWAS and to intensify his consultations with all relevant institutions, including the United Nations, with a view to establishing the modalities for a sustained and concerted action aimed at the rapid resolution of the crisis facing Guinea, including through the establishment of an appropriate coordination mechanism;

6. *Decides* to remain seized of the matter.